



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 05/27/2016 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2016-12558>, and on [FDsys.gov](http://FDsys.gov)

[Docket No.: ED-2016-ICCD-0063]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Federal Student Aid Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Focus Groups Master Plan**

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

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**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 3501 *et seq.*), ED is proposing an extension of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2016-ICCD-0063. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or e-mail and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ, Room 2E-105, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is

especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Generic Clearance for Federal Student Aid Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Focus Groups Master Plan

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0045

*Type of Review:* An extension of an existing information collection

*Respondents / Affected Public:* Individuals or Households

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 200,000

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 45,000

*Abstract:* The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 established Federal Student Aid (FSA) as the first Performance-Based Organization (PBO). One purpose of the PBO is to improve service to student and other participants in the student financial assistance programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, including making those programs more understandable to students and their parents. To do that, FSA has committed to ensuring that all people receive service that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. The legislation's requires establish an on-going need for FSA to be engaged in an interactive process of collecting information and using it to improve program services and processes. The use of customer surveys and focus groups allows FSA to gather that

information from the affected parties in a timely manner so as to improve communications with our product users.

Dated: May 24, 2016.

**Kate Mullan,**

*Acting Director,*

*Information Collection Clearance Division,*

*Office of the Chief Privacy Officer,*

*Office of Management.*

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

[FR Doc. 2016-12558 Filed: 5/26/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/27/2016]